



HER ROYAL HIGHNESS
AUGUSTA WILHELMINA LOUISE,
DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE.

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LA BELLE ASSEMBLEE,

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ILLUSTRATIVE MEMOIR OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS AUGUSTA WILHELMINA LOUISA, DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE.

As we devoted the commencement of the eleventh volume of *LA BELLE ASSEMBLEE* to Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cumberland, so we have the honour of commencing our twelfth volume with a portrait and memoir of Her Royal Highness Augusta Wilhelmina, Duchess of Cambridge. This illustrious lady is the youngest daughter of His Serene Highness Frederick, Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, and niece of His Royal and Serene Highness the Elector, William II., now Prince of Hesse Cassel, Grand Duke of Falda, Prince of Hirschfeld, Count of Catzenellubagen, of Dietz, of Ziegenheim, of Nidda, and of Schaumbourg; Seigneur of Eppstein, of Pless, of Itter, and of Franckenstein.

Dispensing with the task of tracing the Princely House of Hesse from its remote origin, and through its multitudinous ramifications, we shall confine ourselves to a few points of interest to the general reader. The House of Hesse is divided into the two great branches of Cassel and Darmstadt; each of which is again subdivided—the former into the branches of Hesse Cassel and Hesse Rheinsfels, the latter into those of Darmstadt and Hombourg.* The religion of the States of Cassel and Hombourg is Calvinism—of the State of Darmstadt, Lutheranism—of the

State of Rheinsfels, Catholicism. The extent of territory belonging to the State of Hesse Cassel is computed at 4,350 square miles—its population at 603,000 souls—its annual revenue at about £500,000 sterling. The Sovereign bore the title of Landgrave till the year 1803, when that of Elector was conferred. The Princes of Hesse have residences in the towns of Cassel, Falda, Darmstadt, Rottenbourg, Hombourg, and Vaufried, and in the castle of Philipstahl, near Creuzbourg, which was built by Philip, one of the princes of this house, in the seventeenth century. The University of Marbourg was founded in 1526, by Philip, Landgrave of Hesse.

Of this ancient and illustrious family, we shall now state all that is requisite in a genealogical point of view.

Charles, Landgrave of Hesse, born in 1654, married, in 1673, Mary Amelia, daughter of James, Duke of Courland; and by her he had issue, besides several other children, as follows:—

1. Prince Frederick, who married Ulrica Eleanora, daughter of Charles XI., King of Sweden, and sister of Charles XII.; on whose death she succeeded as Queen of Sweden, and her husband became King.

2. William, Landgrave of Hesse, who married Dorothea Wilhelmina, daughter of Maurice William, Duke of Saxe-Zeitz.

3. Maximilian, a Field-Marshal, who left daughters only; one of whom, Ulrica, was married to Frederick Augustus, Duke of Holstein Gollorp Oldenbourg, and became mother of Hedwig Elizabeth Charlotte, who was married to Charles, Duke of Sudermania, Regent, and

* Frederic Joseph, late Landgrave of Hesse Hombourg, who died on the 2d of April, 1829, was the husband of Her Royal Highness the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of George III., and sister of His late Majesty, George IV., King of Great Britain, &c.

afterwards King of Sweden, by the title of Charles XIII.

The Landgrave, William, had, by Dorothy Wilhelmina, of Saxe-Zeitz, two sons: *viz.* Charles, who died young; and Prince Frederick, who succeeded as Landgrave, and married the Princess Mary, daughter of George II., King of England, by whom he had the three undermentioned sons:—

1. William, the first Elector of Hesse, K.G., born in 1743. He married the Princess Wilhelmina Caroline, daughter of Frederick V., King of Denmark. He died on the 27th of February, 1821, and was succeeded by his son, the Elector, William II., now Prince of Hesse Cassel.

2. The Landgrave, Charles, born in 1744, a Field-Marshal in the Danish service. He married, in 1766, Louisa, daughter of Frederick V., King of Denmark, by whom he has issue the present Queen of Denmark, &c.

3. The third and youngest son of the Elector, William I., was Prince Frederick, Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, the father of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge. He was born on the 24th of May, 1747; and he married, on the 2d of December, 1786, Caroline Polixene, daughter of Prince Charles William, of Nassau Usingen; by whom he has the following issue:—

1. Prince William, born December 24, 1787; a Major General in the Danish service. He married, on the 10th of November, 1810, the Princess Louisa Charlotte, daughter of His Royal Highness Frederick, Hereditary Prince of Denmark, and has issue.

2. Prince Frederick William, born on the 24th of April, 1790;—a Major-General in the Prussian service.

3. Prince George Charles, born on the 14th of January, 1793;—also a Major General in the service of Prussia.

4. The Princess Louisa Caroline Maria Frederica, born on the 9th of April, 1794.

5. The Princess Maria Wilhelmina Frederica, born on the 21st of January, 1796; married, on the 12th of August, 1817, to the Grand Duke George, of Mecklenburgh Strelitz.

6. The Princess Augusta Wilhelmina Louisa, now Duchess of Cambridge.

Her Serene Highness was born on the 25th of July, 1797. On the 1st of May, 1818, she was married, at Hesse Cassel, to His Royal Highness Prince Adolphus Frederick, Duke of Cambridge, Earl of Tipperary in Ireland, and Baron of Culloden in North Britain; youngest son of His Majesty, George III., and brother

of His late Majesty, George IV., King of Great Britain, &c. His Royal Highness was born on the 24th of February, 1774. He is Governor-General of the Kingdom of Hanover, Chancellor of the University of St. Andrew's, Knight of the Garter, Knight Grand Cross of the Bath, and Knight of the Guelphic Order of Hanover; a Field-Marshal in the Army, Colonel of the Coldstream Regiment of Foot-Guards, &c.*

On their arrival in England, their Royal Highnesses were re-married, at the Queen's Palace, on the 1st of June—exactly a month after their marriage at Hesse Cassel. The issue of their happy union has been, one son—Prince George William Frederick Charles, born on the 26th of March, 1819; and one daughter—Princess Augusta Caroline Charlotte Elizabeth Maria Sophia Louisa.

* Prince Adolphus was, at an early age, intended for the army; and having received a military education, he was presented with his first commission, as ensign, at the age of sixteen. He afterwards studied three years at Goettingen, where he acquired a perfect knowledge of the German language. He then visited the court of Prussia, and returned to England in 1793, at the time of preparation for war with France. In 1794, he attained the rank of Colonel; and, next year, when he came of age, he was created Duke of Cambridge, Earl of Tipperary, and Baron of Culloden. His appointment of £12,000 a-year was then settled.

In 1803, His Royal Highness was sent, at the head of 8,000 Germans, and 6,000 English, to defend Hanover; and on his return, His Royal Highness took his seat in the House of Peers, and frequently distinguished himself by an avowed opposition to the views of the consular government of France.

When the German Legion was raised, His Royal Highness was appointed to the command. He was also made Colonel of the second or Coldstream Foot-Guards; and, passing through the different grades of promotion, he ultimately attained the rank of Field-Marshal.

For a time, His Royal Highness supported Lord Sidmouth's party; and, afterwards, he acted in opposition. On the restoration of Hanover, he was appointed Governor-General, and he has resided there almost ever since. When the augmentation of £6,000 a-year was granted to the other royal brothers, he received the same; and, on his marriage, Parliament conferred on him a grant of an additional £6,000 per annum.